

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating according to claim 9, wherein ~~each of said at least one first coating layer~~ has an average thickness of 10-2000nm while each ~~of said at least one second coating layer~~ has an average thickness of 10-1000nm, and wherein said hard multilayer coating has a total thickness of 0.5-20 μ m.

4. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating according to claim 9, wherein ~~each of said at least one second coating layer~~ further includes $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$.

5.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating ~~which is to cover a base material, said hard multilayer coating comprising at least one first coating layer and at least one second coating layer~~ first and second coating layers which are alternately superposed on each other, and a base material which is covered by said first and second coating layers,

wherein said first coating layer consists of a plurality of first coating layers and said second coating layer consists of at least one second coating layer,

wherein each ~~of said at least one first coating layer~~ consists of $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$, while each ~~of said at least one second coating layer~~ includes or consists of CrN,

~~wherein said at least one first coating layer consists of a plurality of first coating layers,~~

and wherein one ~~of said plurality of first coating layers~~ layer constitutes an outermost layer of said ~~multilayer coating~~ first and second coating layers, while another ~~of said plurality~~

~~of first coating layers~~ layer constitutes an innermost layer of said ~~hard multilayer coating so~~
~~that said another of said plurality of first coating layer~~ first and second coating layers, and is
held in contact with said base material.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating comprising at least one first
coating layer and at least one second coating layer which are alternately superposed on each
other,

wherein each ~~of said at least one~~ first coating layer consists of $(\text{Ti}_x \text{Al}_{1-x}) (\text{C}_y \text{N}_{1-y})$
wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$, while each ~~of said at least one~~ second coating layer
includes CrN and $(\text{Ti}_x \text{Al}_{1-x}) (\text{C}_y \text{N}_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$,

and wherein one ~~of said at least one~~ first coating layer constitutes an outermost layer
of said hard multilayer coating.